charges where applicable, by the local authorities concerned, as are extended to the Railways.

12. After the completion of the project, the payment of any dividend on equity shall be regulated by the recommendations of the Railway Convention Committee accepted by the Government of India.

13. In case of any dispute arising out of this Agreement, the matter shall be placed before the Chief Justice of India to appoint an arbitrator from among sitting Judges of the Supreme Court to arbitrate upon such dispute.

14. The parties to the Agreement have agreed to fulfill the obligations and responsibilities arising out of the proposals contained in the agreement.

15. The State Governments shall give all and singular support for the formation of the Company, expeditious acquisition of land free of encumberances and to transfer free of cost State Government land an Poromboke land for speedier execution of the project.

16. The Union Government shall provide qualified and experienced manpower to manage the affairs of the Company by taking on deputation officers of the Indian Railways, State Government, Public Sector Enterprises of the Central Government and the State Government concerned.

17. The Union Governments may, if considered necesssry, convert the Corporation in due course into a statutory authority to be created under an Act of Parliament.

Construction of Night Shelters in the Country

553. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for construction of night shelters for footpath dwellers in the major cities of the country;

(b) if so, what is the response of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any decision has been taken to construct such night-shelters; and

(d) if so, the number of footpath dwellers likely to be provided with night shelters during the current year in each of th major cities?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) As part of the Action Plan for the implementation of Government programmes and policies, a Central scheme has been launched for the construction of night shelters and sanitary facilities for footpath dwellers in metropolitan and large cities with concentrations of foopath dwellers for implementation by local bodies and State agencies with subsidy from Government of India and loan assistance from HUDCO.

(d) The target is to provide night shelter facilities to one lakh footpath dwellers by March, 1990. The city-wise coverage of footpath dwellers would, depend on specific project received from the State Governments during this year.

Installation of Statue of late Periar E.V. Ramasamy

554. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that so far no steps have been taken to instal a statue of Social Reformer, Patriot, Freedom Fighter and Founder of Dravida Kazhagam movement in South India, late Periar E.V. Ramasamy Naiker in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government

propose to take steps to instal Periar's statue in New Delhi at the earliest so that the citizens of the Capital may have the opportunity of Posthumously honouring this great son of India; and

(c) if so, by when steps would be taken to execute this project?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Proposals for installation of statues in the Capital are normally to be initiated by organisations interested in the matter and are ready to bear the cost of the work. The organisations are also required to obtain clearance from the local bodies and other appropriate authorities.

Increase in the prices of groundnut oil

555. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the **percentage** of rise n the prices of **groundnut** oil since the presentation of 1990-91 Budget and by what percentage the price is further anticipated to rise during the next six months or so stating the reasons for continuous rise in its price;

(b) whether Government propose for a phased increase in the edible oil prices through P.D.S.; if so, what are the deteiis thereof stating the percentage by which the prices of edible oils are likely to be raised within the next six months and its over-all effect on the consumer particularly on the weaker saction of society;

(c) what is the extent of rise in the subsidy consequent on the rise in the prices of edible oils distributed through PDS; and

(d) the manner in which Government prospose to contain the continuous rise in the prices of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) The percentage increase as on 4.8.90 in the prices of Groundnut oil (Bombay) since the presentation of Budget for 1990-91 is around 20%. The main reason for continuous rise in prices of groundnut oil is attributable to set back in the production of groundnut this year.

(b) Presently there is no proposal for a phased increase in the edible oil prices through Public Distribution System.

(c) There is no subsidy on account of allocation of edible oils under Public Distribution System.

(d) Measures taken by the Government to contain the continuous rise in prices of edible oils broadly include—steps to increase production of essential commodities like edible oils which are in short supply, strengthening of P.D.S., monitoring of prices and availability situation, strict enforcement of provisions of Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures, and augmenting domestic supply through imports wherever necessary.

Loss due to floods in Rajasthan

556. SHRI KRISHANA KUMAR BIRLA: DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be please to state:

(a) what is the estimated loss of life, property and crop caused by the recent floods in Rajasthan;

(b) what is the estimated number of people affected by the floods;

(c) what is the nature and quantum of the Central assistance given to the State Government to provide relief to the affected persons and to rehabilitate them; and

(d) whether any Central team has visited the State to assess the losses and if not, the reasons therefor?